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## EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

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### (54) Method of tasting beverages by using an aerosol container

(57) A new tasting system is proposed to taste beverages, in particular alcoholic drinks, through their nebulization in the oral cavity.

In general, this new system makes use of a spray can (1) comprising a container such as a can or bottle and an upper atomizer.

The beverage, which is preferably but not exclusively an alcoholic drink, is therefore sprayed out through a hole by pressing a piston.

This particular type of spray distributor for beverages or the like containing preferably alcohol is used to nebulize the drink inside the oral cavity by directing the spray jet towards the open mouth and pressing the piston.

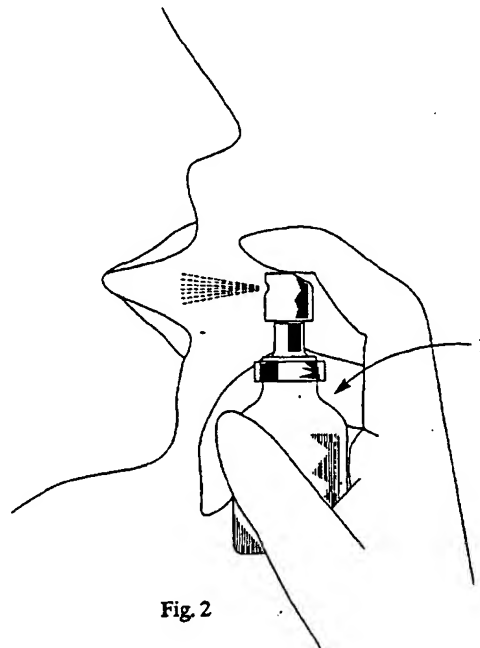


Fig. 2

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## Description

[0001] The present invention proposes a system for the tasting of beverages or the like, preferably alcoholic drinks, which comprises a distributing element suited in particular to spray the drink towards the oral cavity.

[0002] The present system utilizes a container such as a can or bottle in which the beverage is contained and a spray element such as an atomizer. The manual pressure on the atomizer causes the emission of the beverage spray towards the oral cavity.

[0003] A system according to the present invention makes use of a spray can which belongs to the field of accessories for a personal use and consumption. However, in this case the spray can has a new function since it permits a tasting of a small quantity of a beverage, preferably an alcoholic drink, which is sprayed in the mouth. It is thus possible to completely enjoy both the quality and the aromatic properties of the drink.

[0004] The present invention proposes therefore a new tasting system which permits to relish drinks nebulized in the oral cavity.

[0005] It is known that many beverages, in particular alcoholic drinks, contain different substances and different aromatic properties which are tasted by sipping it from a glass. In this way, it is also possible to smell the drink itself.

[0006] However, it has been found that this kind of tasting does not permit to fully enjoy both the flavour and the aroma of the drink because the sipped drink is swallowed in few instants and therefore the tasting action lasts only a very short time while it would be better to last more time.

[0007] The only possibility is to repeat the tasting of the drink more times, which could give rise to undesirable effects and more or less serious inconveniences for health, especially in case of drinks with a high content of alcohol.

[0008] The aim of the present invention is to provide a spray can for spraying beverages or the like, preferably alcoholic drinks, which spray can permits the more or less alcoholic drink contained in the can or bottle to be nebulized, the sprays being directed towards the oral cavity.

[0009] As described, this new tasting system offers the possibility of enjoying the aromatic properties of the drink as much as possible.

[0010] A system according to the present invention permits to prolong the aromatic effects of the beverage without swallowing it and thus, this system limits the undesirable effects for health, especially in case of beverages with a high content of alcohol, which could cause heavy damages for health.

[0011] The above described particular functions and advantages are reached according to the present invention with a spraying system for spraying beverages or the like, preferably alcoholic drinks, characterized mainly by the utilization of a container such as a can or

a small bottle provided with an upper nebulizing element such as an atomizer or the like and by the fact that the said small bottle contains a beverage, preferably but not exclusively an alcoholic drink, which is sprayed in the oral cavity.

[0012] Further characteristics and details of the present invention will result from the following description, which is given as a non-exclusive example, with reference to the accompanying drawing wherein:

- Figure 1 shows a schematical side view of the spray bottle on the whole according to the present invention;
- Figure 2 shows a schematic view of the spray bottle showing a possible use of the invention.

[0013] With reference to the accompanying figures, number 1 denotes a spraying element on the whole according to the present invention.

[0014] The spraying element 1 is basically formed by a container such a small bottle 2 and an upper nebulizing element such as an atomizer 3 or other equivalent nebulizing means. The atomizer 3 is fixed on the upper part of the container, where there is the mouth of the bottle.

[0015] The atomizer or nebulizer 3 may be fixed to the bottle 2 in different manners, for instance by riveting or screwing or other suitable system. The atomizer 3 is provided with an upper piston 4. If the piston is pressed with the finger, the liquid contained in the bottle is sprayed out of the bottle through a suitable side hole 5.

[0016] The characteristic of the present invention is represented by the fact that the container or bottle 2 contains a beverage, preferably but not exclusively an alcoholic drink, which is sprayed out of the bottle through the hole 5 by pressing the piston 4.

[0017] This particular type of spray distribution of beverages or the like, preferably alcoholic drinks, is used according to the present invention to nebulize the drink inside the oral cavity by directing the hole 5 before the open mouth and pressing the piston 4 with the finger.

[0018] The nebulization of the alcoholic drink inside the oral cavity causes a complete homogeneous distribution of the sprayed beverage in the whole cavity. In this way, it is possible to taste the drink for more time thanks to the homogeneity of the distribution. In practice, it is a kind of inhalation.

[0019] This new kind of tasting offers therefore the possibility of enjoying all the aromatic properties of the drink as much as possible.

[0020] As said previously, a system according to the present invention permits to extend the aromatic effects of the beverage on avoiding the drink itself to be ingested. It is thus possible to limit all the undesirable effects and the inconveniences for health caused by the ingestion of the beverage, especially when the beverages have a high alcoholic content.

[0021] A technician of this field may make some variants and further possible applications of the present invention, which has been described and represented as an example, and find solutions to be considered as included in the scope of protection of the present invention as defined by the following claims. 5

#### Claims

1. A system for tasting beverages or the like, preferably alcoholic drinks, characterized mainly by an utilization of a spray can (2) provided with an upper nebulizing element such as an atomizer (3) or the like and by the fact that the said can or bottle contains a beverage, preferably but not exclusively an alcoholic drink, which is sprayed in the oral cavity. 10 15
2. A system for tasting beverages as claimed in claim 1, characterized by the fact that the said atomizer (3) is fixed to the bottle (2) in different manners, for instance by riveting or screwing or other more suitable system. 20
3. A system for tasting beverages as claimed in the foregoing claims, characterized by the fact that the said atomizer (3) is provided with an upper piston (4) and if the piston is pressed with the finger, the liquid contained in the bottle is sprayed out of the bottle through a suitable side hole (5). 25 30
4. A system for tasting beverages as claimed in the foregoing claims, characterized by the fact that the container or small bottle (2) contains a beverage, preferably but not exclusively an alcoholic drink, which is sprayed out of the bottle through the said hole (5) by pressing the piston (4). 35
5. A system for tasting beverages as claimed in the foregoing claims, characterized by the fact that this particular kind of spray distribution of beverages or the like, preferably alcoholic drinks, is used to nebulize the drink inside the oral cavity by directing the hole (5) before the open mouth and pressing the piston (4) with the finger. 40 45
6. A system for tasting beverages as claimed in the foregoing claims, characterized by the fact that the nebulization of the alcoholic drink inside the oral cavity causes a complete homogeneous distribution of the sprayed beverage in the whole cavity on making possible a tasting of the drink for more time. 50

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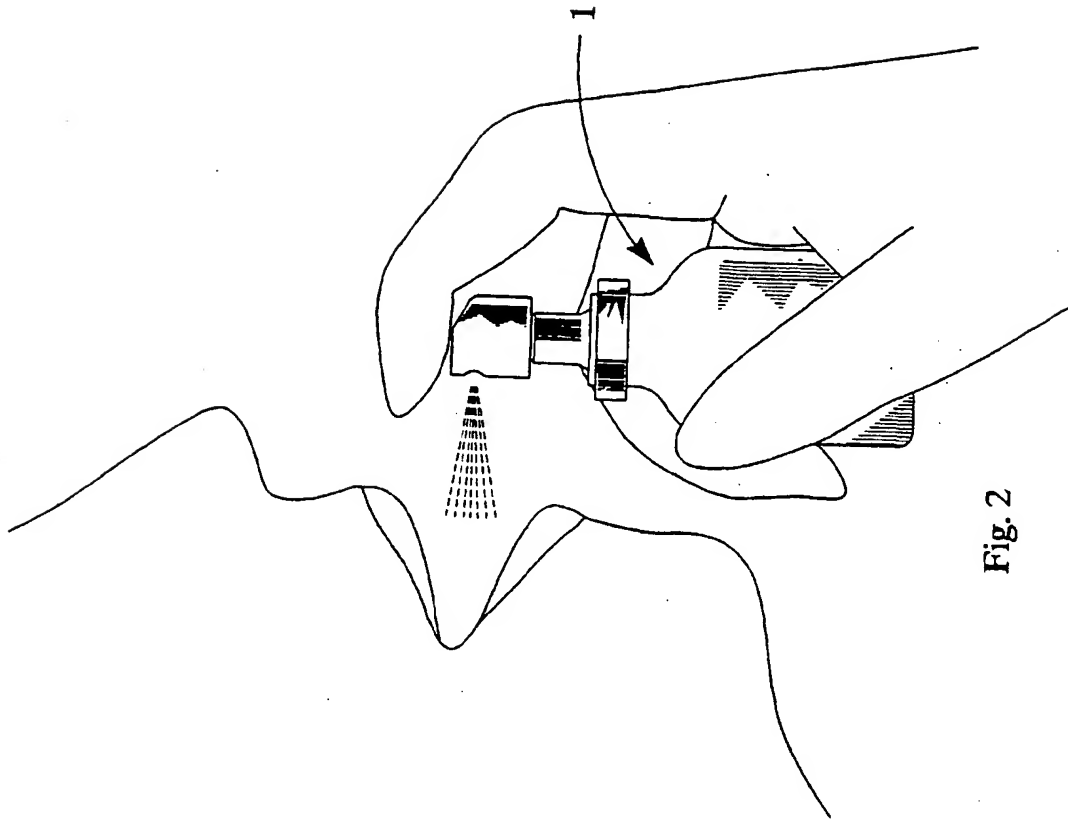


Fig. 2

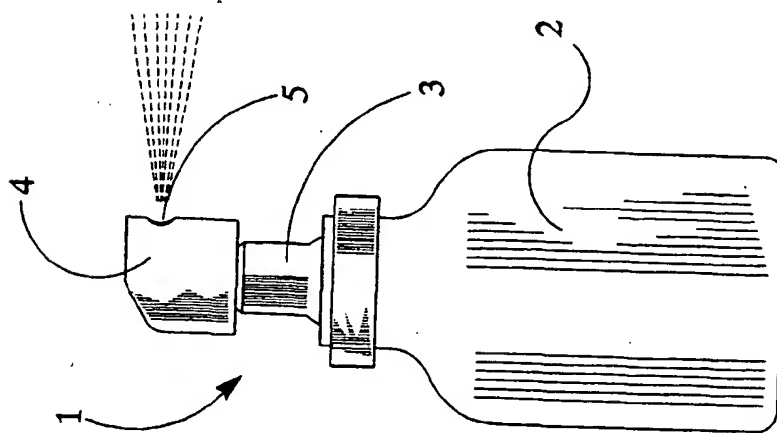


Fig. 1



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# EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 00 10 2832

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
X	DE 296 11 611 U (GLATSCHKE) 5 December 1996 (1996-12-05) * claims; figures *	1-6	B65D83/14
X	DATABASE WPI Week 9145 Derwent Publications Ltd., London, GB; AN 329101 XP002135570 & JP 03 219864 A (OZEKI SAKE BREWING), 27 September 1991 (1991-09-27) * abstract *	1	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
			B65D
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search <b>THE HAGUE</b>		Date of completion of the search <b>12 April 2000</b>	Examiner <b>Deutsch, J.-P.</b>
<p><b>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</b></p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons ..... &amp; : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT  
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 00 10 2832

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The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on  
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12-04-2000

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
DE 29611611 U	05-12-1996	NONE	
JP 3219864 A	27-09-1991	NONE	

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For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82

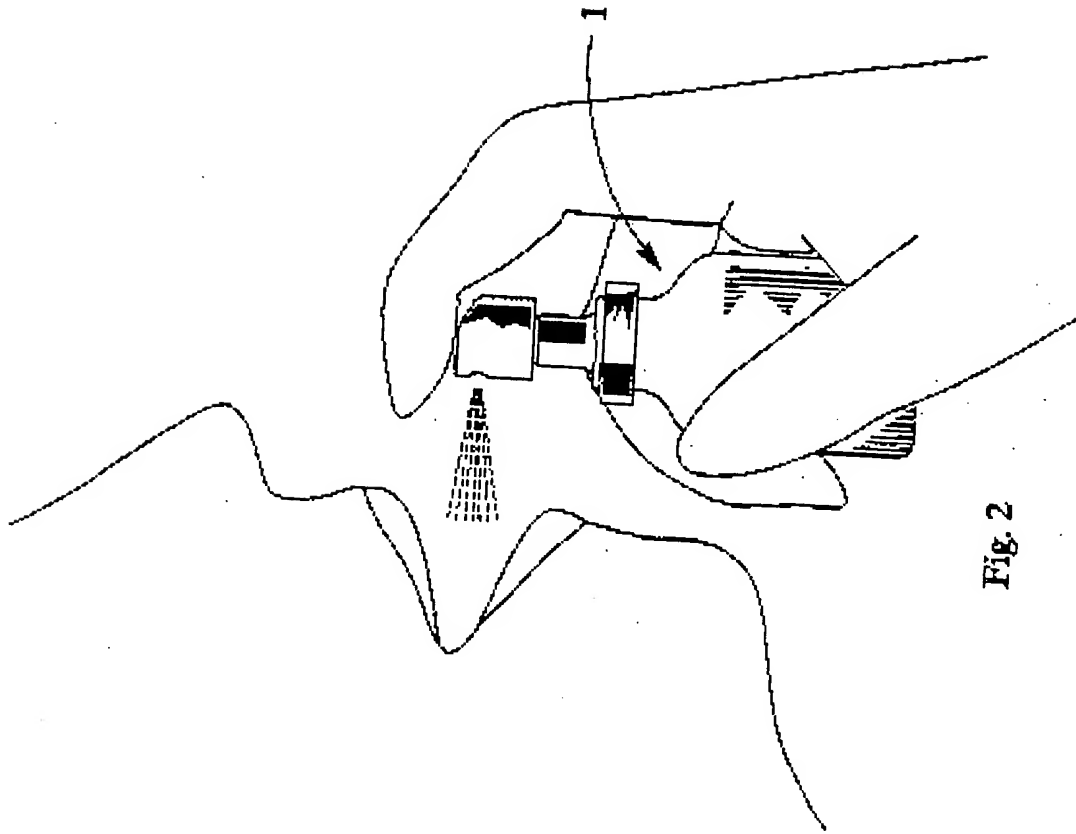


Fig. 2

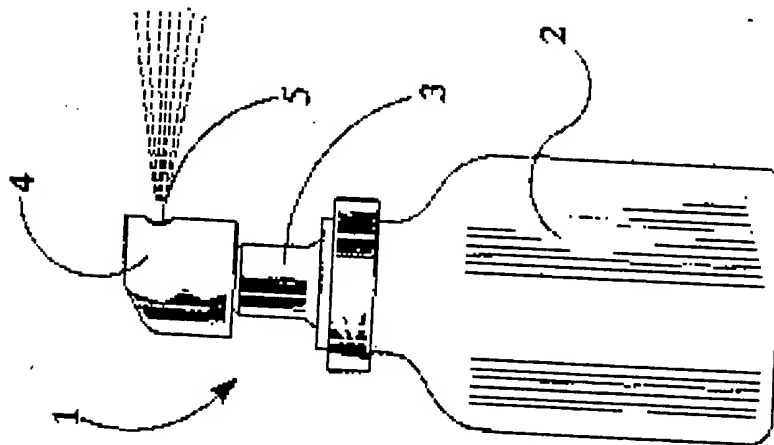


Fig. 1

